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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

30449 7590 03/06/2009

SCHMEISER, OLSEN & WATTS
22 CENTURY HILL DRIVE
SUITE 302
LATHAM, NY 12110

EXAMINER

JOHNSON, GREGORY L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3691

DATE MAILED: 03/06/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/757,771	01/09/2001	Fadi B. Chehade	END920060077US1	8439
TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING BUSINESS PROCESSES				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/08/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

30449 7590 03/06/2009
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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/757,771	01/09/2001	Fadi B. Chehade	END920060077US1	8439

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING BUSINESS PROCESSES

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/08/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
JOHNSON, GREGORY L	3691	705-037000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 749 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 749 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/757,771	CHEHADE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	GREGORY JOHNSON	3691	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/23/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 26,28-33,37,42-47,61-68 and 71-73.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|--|

/Hani M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691

/Gregory Johnson/
Examiner, Art Unit: 3691

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jack P. Friedman on October 17, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code when executed by a computer, enables the computer to:

obtain a first business process data from at least one first trading participant, said first business process data comprising a set of transaction messages having a first data format in accordance with a first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant;

process said first business process data at a process management platform accessible via an interconnection fabric, wherein said process management platform is configured to manage the flow of said transaction messages and monitor said

Art Unit: 3691

transaction messages, wherein said process management platform is configured to automatically determine at least one of a plurality of second trading participants to satisfy said first business process data;

identify a second protocol for conducting said business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants;

generate a second business process data from said first business process data, the second business process data comprising a set of transaction messages having a data format in accordance with said identified second protocol; and

transmit said second business process data from said process management platform to said at least one of said plurality of second trading participants such that said first and second trading participants conduct said business transactions in accordance with their respective protocols for conducting business transactions, wherein said process management platform is configured to process at least one proprietary transaction definition format;

wherein said computer readable program code comprises a virtual trading participant;

wherein the virtual trading participant is configured to receive fictitious business process data from the first trading participant and to both acknowledge the fictitious business process data and reply to the first trading participant that the fictitious business process data has been acknowledged in order to enable the first trading participant to determine that the first trading participant is prepared to automatically transmit the first business data to complete said business transactions;

Art Unit: 3691

wherein the computer readable program code is configured to test operational characteristics and a connectivity of a currently trading participant connected to the process management platform, by utilizing the virtual trading participant to determine if the data defining individual business processes is in a uniform format understood by the process management platform;

wherein the computer readable program code is configured to utilize the virtual trading participant to ensure compatibility with an identified version of the uniform format;

wherein the virtual trading participant provides a mechanism for generating test reports and determining if the process management platform is configured to archive and/or store information about business process data sent through the process management platform;

wherein the process management platform provides a directory of business processes such that the virtual trading participant enables trading participants to review and test an ability to access the directory and obtain data about the business processes a particular trading participant is configured to perform;

wherein the virtual trading participant provides a feedback mechanism for determining if a particular trading participant is ready to send, receive, and perform other operations on business process data.

27. (Canceled)

Art Unit: 3691

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein to obtain the first business process data comprises to obtain the first business process data by the process management platform at a process gateway, and wherein said process gateway interfaces with at least one legacy system of one or both of said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of said plurality of second trading participants.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said process management platform broadcasts said first business process data to said plurality of second trading participants, said process management platform being further configured to utilize at least one open protocol that defines a business process.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 26 further comprising:
computer readable program code configured to modify, by the process management platform, said first business process data to conform said first business process data to [[a]]said uniform format.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said processing further comprises:

archiving, by the process management platform, said first business process data in a storage medium.

Art Unit: 3691

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 31 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to provide, by the process management platform, said archived first business process data to an entity for non-repudiation purposes.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said first business process data comprises at least one partner interface process.

34-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said at least one first trading participant comprises an entity utilizing said first business process data.

38-41. (Canceled)

42. (Original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a plurality of distributed systems.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a business process interface associated with

Art Unit: 3691

said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of a plurality of second participants.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 37 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to provide said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants access to a business process interface.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface is provided via a web browser.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface facilitates the transmission of data comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface facilitates the formatting of data comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

48-60. (Canceled)

Art Unit: 3691

61. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said computer readable program code is configured to identify, by the process management platform, said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants is further configured to determine whether said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants is other than said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 61, wherein said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant is other than said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 61, wherein said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant is said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the second protocol differs from the first protocol, wherein the transaction messages comprise an unencrypted header and encrypted payload data compatible with the first data format, and wherein the computer readable program code is configured to decrypt

Art Unit: 3691

the encrypted payload data and subsequently re-encrypt the decrypted payload data according to the data format in accordance with said identified second protocol.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 64, wherein the computer readable program code is configured to:

- determine that information in the header is compatible with the at least one of the plurality of second trading partners;

- modify the header, including strip unneeded information from the header and alter content of the header; and

- digitally sign the modified header.

66. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the computer readable program code is configured to:

- receive acknowledgment of receipt of the second business process data by the at least one of said plurality of second trading participants; and

- transmit the received acknowledgment to the first trading participant.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, said computer readable program code configured to apply logic to the first business process data to perform a service for the first trading participant, said service including generating the second business process data as differing from the first business process data.

Art Unit: 3691

68. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 67,

wherein the at least one of said plurality of second trading participants comprises at least two second trading participants of said plurality of second trading participants;

wherein the second business process data is an offer of a trading participation agreement between the first trading participant and a satisfactory second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants;

wherein the service is a service of negotiating said trading participation agreement between the first trading participant and said satisfactory second trading participant;

wherein said computer readable program code is configured to sequentially transmit said second business process data to each second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants and to subsequently receive a reply from each respective second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants before transmitting said second business process data to a next second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants; and

wherein upon receiving a satisfactory reply from a last second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants, said computer readable program code is configured to send confirmation to the first trading participant that said trading participation agreement has been successfully negotiated between the first trading participant and said satisfactory second trading participant, said satisfactory second trading participant consisting of said last second trading participant.

Art Unit: 3691

69-70. (Canceled)

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein to obtain the first business process data comprises to obtain the first business process data by the process management platform, wherein to identify the second protocol comprises to identify the second protocol by the process management platform, and wherein to generate the second business process data comprises to generate the second business process data by the process management platform.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 65, wherein to determine that information in the header is compatible with the at least one of the plurality of second trading partners comprises to determine, by the process management platform, that information in the header is compatible with the at least one of the plurality of second trading partners, wherein to modify the header, and wherein to modify the header comprises to modify the header by the process management platform.

73. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 66, wherein to receive acknowledgment comprises to receive acknowledgment by the process management platform, and wherein to transmit the received acknowledgment comprises to transmit, by the process management platform, the received acknowledgment.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 26, 28-33, 37, 42-47, 61-68 and 71-73 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GREGORY JOHNSON whose telephone number is (571)272-2025. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ALEXANDER KALINOWSKI can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3691

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GREGORY JOHNSON
Examiner, Art Unit 3691

/Hani M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691